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RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 2786  
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY 1733

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ADDIS ABABA 000161

SIPDIS

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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E, AF/FO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/17/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SO](#) [ET](#)

SUBJECT: SOMALIA: ETHIOPIA ON TFG INCLUSIVENESS

REF: A. 1/17/06 FRAZER-YAMAMOTO TELCON

[1](#)B. STATE 4804 (NOTAL)

[1](#)C. ADDIS ABABA 95

[1](#)D. ADDIS ABABA 89

[1](#)E. ADDIS ABABA 80

Classified By: DEPUTY POL-ECON COUNSELOR ERIC WONG. REASON: 1.4 (D).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: In ongoing discussions with GOE principals, Ambassador has repeatedly raised ref B points on the need to, inter alia, encourage Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) leaders to not only reconcile with TFG Speaker Shariff Hassan, but also to reach out to all Somali stakeholders. Prime Minister Meles has explicitly urged TFG President Yusuf to delay efforts to impeach the Speaker, but assesses that the Speaker suffers from a weakening political base, and that neither the Speaker nor TFG Prime Minister Ghedi play a significant role in the TFG. END SUMMARY.

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MELES HAS ADVISED YUSUF TO DELAY SPEAKER'S IMPEACHMENT  
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[1](#)2. (C) Per ref A, Ambassador underscored to Prime Minister Meles on January 17 that the TFG should be urged not to impeach TFG Speaker Shariff Hassan or TFG Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Ghedi, as doing so would undermine international support for the TFG, which now required a semblance of unity. Meles informed Ambassador that he had urged TFG President Abdullahi Yusuf to delay any impeachment of the Speaker. Meles observed that while the Speaker had been acting as a "government in exile," and remained in direct contact with remnants of the Council of Islamic Courts (CIC) leadership, Meles had nevertheless still asked Yusuf to delay his impeachment.

[1](#)3. (C) Ambassador remarked that TFG actions on Shariff could undermine international support for the TFG. Meles responded that if the EU were conditioning support for IGASOM or for the TFG on political reconciliation, then it was giving in to the "Somalia mafia" in Nairobi (i.e., remnants of the CIC). Meles urged that the EU and others in the international community support the peace process in Somalia without establishing any preconditions or "excuses."

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MELES REPORTS YUSUF PLEDGES TO LAUNCH INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE  
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[1](#)4. (C) Ambassador highlighted the need for TFG inclusiveness in several previous meetings on Somalia with both PM Meles Zenawi and Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin. GOE principals share our understanding of the need to promote TFG inclusiveness, and have raised it with President Abdullahi

Yusuf and other TFG leaders:

-- Ambassador raised ref B points with PM Meles on January 16, with FM Seyoum on January 11 (ref D), and with deputy foreign minister Tekeda Alemu on January 12 (septel). FM Seyoum observed that PM Meles had discussed the issue at length with TFG President Yusuf, and that Yusuf did not favor impeaching Speaker Shariff Hassan, despite pressure from TFG parliamentarians to do so (ref D).

-- On January 9, Meles informed Ambassador that he had raised the need for TFG inclusiveness with President Yusuf. Meles noted that he had urged Yusuf to foster a representative political dialogue among Somalis by engaging Hawiye and other clan elders and integrating clan militias into a unified army. Meles reported that Yusuf acknowledged the need for inclusive dialogue "from the bottom up," which would involve all clans. Yusuf had also informed Meles that the TFG intended to work collaboratively with stake-holders to establish provincial-level government structures and to hold a national reconciliation conference, involving representatives of all provinces as well as the Somali diaspora (ref E).

-- In a January 10 press conference, Meles publicly commented that Yusuf had pledged to engage with former CIC members, saying "the President assured me that he would negotiate with all clans... with all religious leaders... with all businessmen... with those civil society associations which are not directly associated with Al Qaeda. And therefore that should cover the whole gamut of moderate Islamicists in Somalia" (ref C).

15. (C) COMMENT: PM Meles and FM Seyoum are acutely aware of

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the need for the TFG to reach out broadly to all Somali stakeholders, and PM Meles has explicitly appealed to President Yusuf not to prosecute or impeach Speaker Shariff. Meles and Seyoum assess, however, that the Speaker as well as TFG PM Ghedi suffer from a weakening political base that threatens to marginalize them further, and that neither plays a significant political role in the TFG. Meles indicated that the TFG did not always follow Ethiopian advice. He also indicated that clan representatives in the TFG could be replaced over time, but that it was up to the clans -- in a bottom-up political reconciliation process -- to do so in "the Somali way." END COMMENT.  
YAMAMOTO